

IN THE CLAIMS:

Add the following new Claim 40:

-- 40. Catheter for controlling the circulation of fluid therethrough, from or to a duct of a human or animal body in which the catheter is inserted, the catheter comprising:

(a) a tubular body having a principal axis and having an outside diameter, an internal passage of an inside diameter, and a distal end having an opening that communicates with the passage;

(b) a cap that is affixed to the distal end of the body of the catheter, the cap having an essentially flat distal wall facing the open distal end of the body; and

(c) a slit forming a valve through the flat distal wall of the cap, to communicate with the passage in the body of the catheter, the valve reacting to pressure differences on either side thereof, for the circulation of the fluid from or to the duct, the slit having a length that is greater than the outside diameter of the flat distal wall of the cap;

(d) wherein the flat distal wall of the cap is spaced from the distal end of the catheter body by a predetermined distance. --

REMARKS

A. Amendments to Claims

It is proposed to add new independent Claim 40 as presented above for consideration on the merits.

Support for new Claim 40 exists in the specification as originally filed in several embodiments of the disclosed technology.